



SECOND OPINIONS

(What connection do you think the following illustration has with the Bible texts on the other page?)

While traveling around the world, John and his wife Anne were camping in a country far from home when John was bitten by a snake. Not knowing what kind of snake it was or what the bite’s effects might be, John and Anne jumped into their jeep and headed for the nearest town, where a doctor examined John’s red, swollen, angry-looking snakebite wound.

“You were bitten by the most dangerous snake in this part of the country,” the doctor said, “and the bite is fatal. Without treatment, you have less than an hour to live.”

“Is there any treatment?” Anne asked, frantic to save her husband’s life.

“Yes, you’re very fortunate that I have a small amount of the anti-dote here in my clinic,” the doctor said, filling the syringe.

“Wait a second,” John said. “You’re saying this antidote of yours is the only cure for the snakebite venom?”

“The only known cure, sir,” the doctor said.

“Hurry up and give him the needle!” Anne insisted.

“No, I want to think about this,” John said. “I think it’s pretty narrow-minded of you to insist this is the only treatment available. What if I want to try something different? I don’t like needles. I like herbal remedies. Maybe there’s an herb I can take? Or, I’d like to try doing some exercises to see if those would make it better.”

“We must hurry, sir,” the doctor said. “Already the poison is spreading through your bloodstream. I repeat, this antidote is the only cure.”

“John, just let him give you the needle,” Anne begged.

“I’m really not sure about this,” John said. “There’s always more than one way to approach a situation. I think we need to explore other options rather than just taking his word for it that there’s only one cure.”

In real life, this situation would be unthinkable. In a life-or-death situation, most people would accept the doctor’s word that there’s only one available treatment. But many people reject the message that there’s only one way to eternal salvation—through Jesus—and only one guide to living life—the Bible. How is God’s truth like the snakebite antidote? How is it different? Is a person who rejects God’s “treatment” behaving as foolishly as John did in this story?



start

Key Text: Choose one of the texts from Wednesday’s portion of the lesson. Write it here and memorize it this week.

>>

Sunday

HERE’S WHAT I THINK

>> Your friend Tiffany is one of the nicest people you know. She’s always cheerful and pleasant, she’s kind to everyone, she likes to get involved in activities that will make the world a better place, like raising money for the homeless or starting a recycling program. You ask if she’d like to come to church with you, but she says, “I believe Jesus was a good man, but I don’t think He was God. I think God is in all of us; God is whatever you want Him to be. And I don’t think I’m a sinner, so why do I need to be saved?”

>> Does Tiffany need Jesus? How do you respond to her beliefs? Is there a way to share your beliefs that would be meaningful to her?

>> Log on to www.guidemagazine.org/rtf to post your responses. Be up-front and honest. Say what you think.

2

Monday

WHAT ARE THEY TRYING TO SAY?

Different people, different opinions. Some of the quotations below represent the views of true kingdom citizens; others may not. Can you tell the difference? How do these statements compare with what God is saying in His Word? After reviewing the texts in the God Says . . . portion of the lesson, write a statement that captures your belief. Be prepared to quote yourself at Sabbath School.

>> “Truth hurts—not the searching after; the running from!”—*John Eyberg.*

>> “Seven out of ten teens say there is no absolute moral truth, and eight out of 10 claim that all truth is relative to the individual and his/her circumstances.”—*George Barna, current U.S. researcher on social trends.*

>> “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”—*Jesus (John 14:6, NIV).*

>> “We observe the ultimate right and responsibility of each individual to hold him or herself as the ultimate authority in all matters.”—*from the website of a Satanist “church”*

>> “In this Word [the Bible], God has committed to man the knowledge necessary for salvation. The Holy Scriptures are the infallible revelation of His will. They are the standard of character, the test of experience, the authoritative revealer of doctrines, and the trustworthy record of God’s acts in history.”—*28 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists.*

>> “Beware of reasoning about God’s Word—obey it.”—*Oswald Chambers, 20th-century British clergyman and writer.*

>> “If it feels right then just do it / Momma says the opposite I go through with it / So what you gonna do? / Daddy don’t approve of you / If it feels right then just do it, do it.”—*From the song “If It Feels Right,” performed by American pop singer Aimee Allen.*

Write your own quotation. What I say is . . .

>>

3

Tuesday
SO WHAT?

- >> When your grandparents were teens, most people around them probably believed that the Bible set the standard for what was right and wrong, even if they didn't follow it themselves! We live in a different world. More and more people today believe the truth is something that comes from inside you. People question the authority of the Bible and of God, and look to other sources or to themselves for truth. A lot of the old standards of right and wrong don't seem to apply anymore. How do you make decisions about what's right and wrong when it seems there are more choices than ever before?
- >> Though we need to respect others who make different choices, as Christian young people we still need to stand firm on the Bible as our authority. It doesn't change. Basing your beliefs and your actions on God's Word will give you solid ground to stand on in a world where everything seems to be changing so fast, it's almost impossible to keep up with it.

5

Thursday
WHAT DOES THIS
HAVE TO DO WITH ME?

- >> You face choices every day. Whom do you trust to give you guidance with those choices? Your inner "gut feeling"? Your friends? The media—TV, movies, music? Your parents? Your church?
- >> While all those factors will influence you, it's important to have one authority that backs up all the others, one that doesn't change with the latest trends. You'll hear many people today saying that there's no such thing as "absolute truth." What's right for me may not be right for you. While this can certainly be true in matters of personal taste (the green striped biking shorts may be OK for you, but not for me!), in matters of faith and morality you need a solid foundation. That can only be found in God's Word, the Bible.
- >> What about friends who don't believe in the Bible as God's Word? Is it "true for you, but not true for them"? No, the Bible is for everyone. But that doesn't mean we shove it down the throats of those who don't believe. We live in a world today that offers more diversity in terms of people's beliefs and cultures than ever before. In a world like this, we need to respect others and remember that they have the same right to their beliefs as we do to ours—while at the same time keeping our feet firmly planted on what we do believe.

4

Wednesday
GOD SAYS . . .

- >> **Matthew 7:13, 14 (CEV)**
"Go in through the narrow gate. The gate to destruction is wide, and the road that leads there is easy to follow. A lot of people go through that gate. But the gate to life is very narrow. The road that leads there is so hard to follow that only a few people find it."
- >> **Proverbs 3:5, 6 (Message)**
"Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he's the one who will keep you on track."
- >> **Psalms 119:9, 10 (Message)**
"How can a young person live a clean life? By carefully reading the map of your Word. I'm single-minded in pursuit of you; don't let me miss the road signs you've posted."
- >> **Titus 1:15 (NIV)**
"To the pure, all things are pure, but to those who are corrupted and do not believe, nothing is pure. In fact, both their minds and consciences are corrupted."
- >> **1 Timothy 4:3 (Message)**
"These liars have lied so well and for so long that they've lost their capacity for truth."
- >> **2 Timothy 4:3 (CEV)**
"The time is coming when people won't listen to good teaching. Instead, they will look for teachers who will please them by telling them only what they are itching to hear."
- >> **2 Timothy 3:1-5 (CEV)**
"You can be certain that in the last days there will be some very hard times. People will love only themselves and money. They will be proud, stuck-up, rude, and disobedient to their parents. They will also be ungrateful, godless, heartless, and hateful. Their words will be cruel, and they will have no self-control or pity. These people will hate everything that is good. They will be sneaky, reckless, and puffed up with pride. Instead of loving God, they will love pleasure. Even though they will make a show of being religious, their religion won't be real. Don't have anything to do with such people."

6

Friday
HOW DOES IT WORK?

- >> In the center circle write a few words or draw a picture to represent a question or problem in your life right now. Then, in the smaller circles, draw small stick figures to illustrate parents, friends, teachers, etc. Next to each picture, write briefly what you think that person would say about your question or problem.
- >> In the top circle write what God's Word has to say about your question or problem (you may need to look up some Bible verses). Draw a line from that circle to the "problem" circle, then compare what's written there to what you think others would have to say. Are the voices of important people in your life giving you the same advice God's Word gives you, or are they leading you in different directions?